

## APHROCERAS ALCICORNIS.

*Hab.* Hong-Kong (Dr. Harland).

This species somewhat resembles *Grantia botryoides* in appearance and habit; but in that species the spicula are all *triradiate*, which appears to be the generic character of the genus *Grantia* as I propose to restrict it.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* Feb. 23, 1858.

*On the Hypermetamorphosis and Habits of Sitaris.* By M. FABRE.

M. Fabre has been engaged in the investigation of the habits and metamorphosis of *Sitaris*, a genus of Coleopterous insects nearly allied to *Meloë*; the latter, as is well known, was the subject of some of the admirable investigations of the late George Newport. Singularly enough, M. Fabre was quite ignorant of the memoir of the great English physiologist, up to the time of his reading his own paper before the Academy of Sciences. The principal facts in the latter are summed up by the author in the following words:—

“The species of *Sitaris* and *Meloë*, and apparently other *Meloïdes*, if not all, are, in their early stages, parasitic on Anthophilous Hymenoptera.

“The larva of the *Meloïdes*, before arriving at the pupa state, passes through four forms, which the author denominates *primitive larva*, *second larva*, *pseudo-chrysalis*, and *third larva*. The passage from one of these forms to the other is effected by a simple change of skin, without any alteration in the viscera.

“The *primitive larva* is coriaceous, and takes up its abode on the bodies of Hymenopterous insects. Its object is to get transported into a cell full of honey. When it reaches the cell, it devours the egg of the Bee, and its part is performed. This is the active hexapod larva, described by Newport and other observers as the first product of the egg in *Meloë*.

“The *second larva* is soft, and differs entirely from the primitive larva in its external characters. It feeds upon the honey contained in the usurped cell.

“The *pseudo-chrysalis* is a body destitute of all movement, and clothed with corneous integuments comparable to those of pupæ. On these integuments there are the design of a cephalic mask, without moveable and distinct parts, six tubercles indicating the feet, and nine pairs of stigmatic orifices. In *Sitaris* the pseudo-chrysalis is enclosed in a sort of sac formed by the skin of the second larva. In *Meloë* it is simply half invaginated in the cleft skin of the second larva.

“The *third larva* exhibits nearly the same characters as the second. In *Sitaris* it is enclosed in a double vesicular envelope formed by the skin of the second larva and that of the pseudo-chrysalis. In *Meloë* it is half-enclosed in the cleft skin of the pseudo-chrysalis, which, in its turn, is inserted in the same way into that of the second larva.

“After this, the metamorphosis follows the usual course; the third larva becomes a pupa, and the latter a perfect insect.”—*Comptes Rendus*, March 1, 1858, p. 443.